

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

**Probable SS-X-23 Equipment Identified
at Kapustin Yar SRBM Test Complex A Site 1
USSR (TSR)**

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PROBABLE SS-X-23 EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED AT KAPUSTIN YAR SRBM TEST COMPLEX A SITE 1, USSR (TSR)

1. (TSR) A probable SS-X-23 missile airframe canister, warhead canister, and possible warhead were identified for the first time on imagery of [redacted] at Kapustin Yar SRBM Test Complex A Site 1 [redacted] USSR. Also present in the vicinity were probable SS-X-23 transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), one resupply vehicle, and several crates.

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2. (TSR) The TEL/resupply vehicles for this new system were previously referred to by the interim designator KY-A-01. The SS-X-23 was reported in a DoD cable to be a replacement for the aging SCUD missile system.¹ The TEL/resupply vehicles have been observed only at Kapustin Yar Missile/Space Test Center SSM ([redacted] and Mirnaya Motorized Rifle Division Headquarters/Army Barracks AL-1 [redacted]. The observations at Mirnaya were on imagery of [redacted] at a training area near that facility.

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3. (TSR) On the [redacted] imagery the probable SS-X-23 equipment was in the missile assembly/checkout area at Kapustin Yar SRBM Test Complex A Site 1 (Figure 1). The missile airframe canister, which differed from those associated with known SRBM systems, was [redacted] long, with a [redacted] diameter. Rims were positioned around the canister, creating sections [redacted]. The warhead canister was [redacted] long and [redacted] in diameter. Two halves of the warhead canister were observed on the ground flanking the missile airframe canister. A light-toned possible warhead was visible within one of the halves of the warhead canister. Three crates were observed in the area; one was [redacted] and two were [redacted] meter each. The crates are probably associated with the SS-X-23 system.

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4. (TSR) The airframe canister was seen again on the ground beside a probable SS-X-23 TEL on imagery of [redacted] (Figure 2). Three additional TELs (one not shown on the graphic) and one resupply vehicle (not shown on the graphic) were in the same general area. Three of the larger, and two of the smaller, crates were seen on that date near a GAZ-53A/ZIL-130 cargo truck. The warhead canister was not observed.

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REFERENCE

1. DoD/JCS. Cable. FMID/ACEREP/DAILY INTSUM/050003/SHAPE. 050150Z May 79 (NATO SECRET)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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